AIR INDIA'S UNDERSTANDING WITH SINGAPORE AIRLINES

3065. SHRI E. BALANANDAN : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether Air India have any understanding with Singapore Airlines for not employing its crew members until NOC is obtained from Air India ;

(b) if so, the details thereof ; and

(c) whether such an understanding is in accordance with Government's policy or terms of contract with the individual workman crew members of Air India ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

EQUITY PARTICIPATION IN PRIVATE SECTOR, AIRWAYS BY FOREIGN AIRLINES

3066. SHRI NARAIN PRASAD GUPTA : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have allowed any equity participation in private sector, Jet Airways, Gulf Air and the Kuwait Airways ;

(b) what are the terms and conditions of such a participation and the reasons for doing the same ;

(c) how the proposed equity arrangements will affect the operations and revenue of the public sector, Indian Airlines and Air India; and

(d) at whose instance such a decision was taken without being considered by the Cabinet ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) and (b) An investment proposal by M|s. Jet Airways that they may be owned by Tailwinds Ltd., a company incorporated in the Isle of Man, in which Gulf Airways and Kuwait Airways would hold shares upto 40 per cent and the balance would be held by NRI, has been approved by the Government.

(c) Air India and Indian Airlines will have to face competition.

(d) The proposal was approved by the Government after fulfilling the prescribed procedure.

3067. [Transferred to 24th December, 1993].

TAX ON PILOT'S MEAL ALLOWANCES

3068. SHRI G. G. SWELL : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have agreed to pay Rs. 6 crores towards tax on pilots' meal allowances hiked with effect from 1st January, 1991 ;

(b) whether the Central Board of Direct Taxes has averred that there would be a tax on this tax too ;

(c) if so, the amount of the additional tax on tax ;

(d) whether Government propose any steps to bring down the tax ; and

(e) whether policy of pampering the pilots has resulted in improvement of services by Indian Airlines ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

(c) An agreement has recently been signed with Indian Commercial Pilots' Association (ICPA) wherein the ICPA has agreed to increase Flight and Duty Time of pilots as also a change in their